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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/809,341 03/26/2004 Atsuhisa Nakashima 119262 8238

25944 7590 03/30/2007
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. BOX 19928
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320

EXAMINER

MRUK, GEOFFREY S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2853

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS 03/30/2007 PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/809,341	NAKASHIMA, ATSUHISA	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Geoffrey Mruk	2853	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 January 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5,9 and 10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5,9 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/1/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12 January 2007 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 9, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi et al. (US 6,203,136 B1).

With respect to claim 1, Takahashi discloses a print head cap (Column 1, lines 10-14) comprising:

- a bottom surface (Fig. 12a, element 34); and
- a ring-like lip (Fig. 7a, element 35) surrounding the bottom surface like a ring, protruding toward a nozzle surface (Fig. 12a, element 7) of a print head an ink jet

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- printer and being elastically deformable, the ring-like lip to be pressed onto the nozzle surface to cover the nozzle surface therewith (Column 6, lines 44-50);
- wherein the ring-like lip has corners (Fig. 7a, element 35a) that change a direction of surrounding the bottom surface; and includes a distal end (See Fig. 12b below) and a groove (See Fig. 12b below) that urges the distal end to be deformed in an outer side of the ring-like lip (Fig. 12b, element 35), the distal end falling downward to an inside of the groove when a print head cap is pressed onto the nozzle surface (Column 6, lines 44-54, i.e. cap expands); and
 - the corners are more elastically deformable than the other portion of the ring-like lip (Column 6, lines 9-10), and the corners (Fig. 7a, element 35) are made thinner than the other portion (Column 6, lines 11-19; Claim 12).

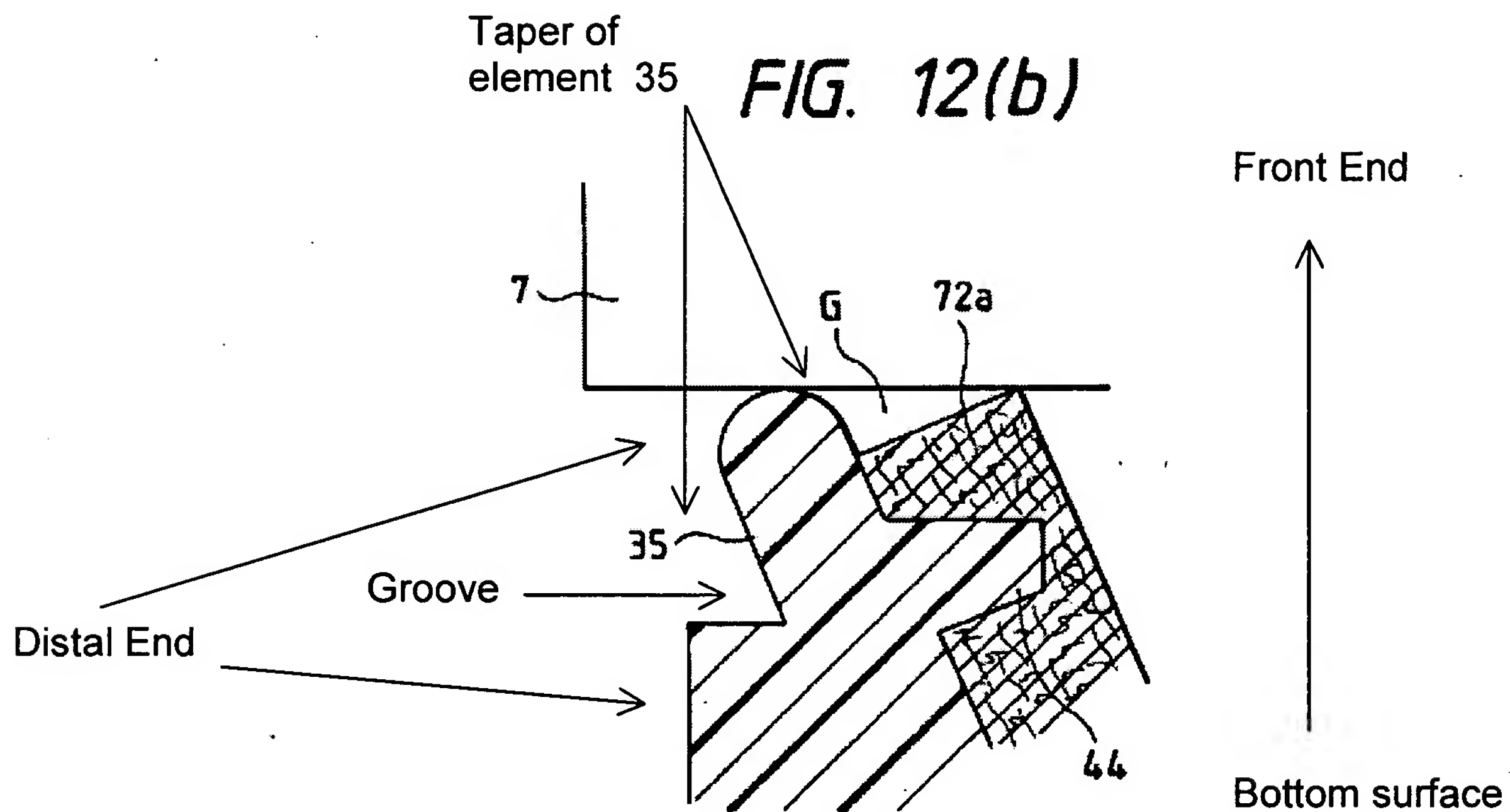
With respect to claim 3, Takahashi discloses the other portion includes a plurality of side lips (Fig. 7a, element 35b); at least one of the corners (Fig. 7a element 35a) includes a corner lip; and the corner lip connects the side lips with each other.

With respect to claim 4, Takahashi discloses each of the side lips (Fig. 7a, element 35b) has a front end and is formed into a tapered sectional shape which is smaller in width as a location goes from the bottom surface toward the front end (See Fig. 12b below); and the corner lip has substantially the same height (Column 6, lines 45-48, i.e. sealing the recording head) as the side lips and is smaller than the side lips in thickness (Column 6, lines 11-19; Claim 12).

With respect to claim 5, Takahashi discloses the ring-like lip is formed into a rectangular shape (Fig. 7a, i.e. plan view of element 35); and the side lips (Fig. 7a,

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element 35b) include a pair of linear side lips on long sides and a pair linear side lips on short sides.



With respect to claim 9, Takahashi discloses the groove extends vertically and perpendicular to the bottom surface (Fig. 12b above).

With respect to claim 10, Takahashi discloses a print head cap (Column 1, lines 10-14) comprising:

- a bottom surface (Fig. 12a, element 34); and
- a ring-like lip (Fig. 7a, element 35) surrounding the bottom surface like a ring, protruding toward a nozzle surface (Fig. 12a, element 7) of a print head of an ink jet printer and being elastically deformable, the ring-like lip to be pressed onto the

nozzle surface to cover the nozzle surface therewith (Column 6, lines 44-54, i.e. cap expands);

- wherein the ring-like lip has comers (Fig. 7a, element 35a) that change a direction of surrounding the bottom surface and includes a distal end (Fig. 12b above) and a groove (Fig. 12b above) that urges the distal end to be deformed in an outer side of the ring-like lip, the groove extending vertically and perpendicular to the bottom surface (Fig. 12b above); and
- the comers are more elastically deformable than other portions of the ring-like lip (Column 6, lines 9-10) , and the comers are made thinner than the other portion (Column 6, lines 11-19; Claim 12).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 12 January 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant's argument that "Rather, in Takahashi, the distal end of draping 35 does not fall downward to an inside position of draping 35 when the print head cap is pressed onto the nozzle surface. This is clearly shown when comparing the cap detached from the print head as shown in Fig. 11 (b) of Takahashi with the cap assembled with and attached to the print head in Figs. 12(a)-(c). In Figs. 11 (b) and Figs. 12(a)-(c), the draping remains substantially erect", is not persuasive. However, as stated in the final rejection, Takahashi discloses a print head capping device where "the cap moves its contact position with the nozzle plate P partially while expanding the

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contact region from its one corner of the draping 35 gradually” (Column 6, lines 44-46).

Therefore, Takahashi meets the claimed limitations.

Conclusion

All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the application prior to the entry of the submission under 37 CFR 1.114 and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the application prior to entry under 37 CFR 1.114. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action after the filing of a request for continued examination and the submission under 37 CFR 1.114. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Geoffrey Mruk whose telephone number is 571 272-2810. The examiner can normally be reached on 7am - 330pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Meier can be reached on 571 272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

GSM
3/23/2007

GM



STEPHEN MEIER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER